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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/627,296

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Hai H. Trieu

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KRIEG DEVAULT LLP
ONE INDIANA SQUARE, SUITE 2800
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2709

EXAMINER

ARAJ, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/04/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,296

Applicant(s)

TRIEU ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J. Araj

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2007.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 and 73-90 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 86-90 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9-29 and 73-85 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 25 and 81 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 9, 10 and 15-24, 26-29, 73-80 and 82-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/20010254) in view of Sutterlin et al. (U.S. Publication No. (2006/0074425).

Cooke et al. disclose a system comprising at least one blocking member (11) made of a planar member, one anchor (6) engageable with said blocking member and a guide instrument including a guide member (page 3, paragraph 1). The blocking member includes an attachment portion (8) extending from one end thereof, said attachment portion being adapted to receive at least one anchor. The attachment portion includes an eyelet (8) defining a passage therethrough for receiving at least one anchor that includes means for resisting pullout from the tissue (5). The blocking member includes a width along the annulus when positioned in the defect less than the width of the defect along the annulus. The defect has a width along the annulus and said blocking member extends across at least 10 %, about 10% to 50% and at least about 50% of the width of the defect when positioned therein. With regard the statement of intended use and other functional statements, they do not impose any

structural limitations on the claims distinguishable over Cooke et al. which is capable of being used as claimed if one so desires to do so. *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). Furthermore, the law of anticipation does not require that the reference "teach" what the subject patent teaches, but rather it is only necessary that the claims under attack "read on" something in the reference. *Kalman v. Kimberly Clark Corp.*, 218 USPQ 781 (CCPA 1983). Furthermore, the manner in which a device is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Cook et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the specifics of the guide member. Sutterlin et al. disclose a guide member (10) that is elongated and includes a passage extending therethrough and a slot (20) extending through a body of the device that is in communication with said passage. The guide instrument further comprises a positioning flange (22) extending distally from said guide member and offset from said passage. The guide member includes a shaft extending proximally from said guide member and a handle assembly that is oriented transversely to a longitudinal axis of said guide instrument. Said instrument comprises a drill instrument (24) positionable through said passage and operable therethrough to form the hole. The guide member extends between the hole and the defect while said distal portion is positioned in the defect. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the guide instrument of Sutterlin et al. with the device of Cook et al.

because it overcomes drawbacks of prior art by providing the methods disclosed (Paragraph 0023)

Claims 11-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/20010254).

Cook et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the blocking member being made of the resorbable materials claimed or the non-resorbable materials claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Cook et al. with the claimed materials, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25 and 81 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 86-90 are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Araj whose telephone number is 571-272-5963. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MJA


EDWARD J. BENNETT
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER